

Sustainable Monocacy Commission meeting

Thursday, March 25, 2021 (virtual meeting via Webex)

Members present: Alderman Roger Wilson, Councilmember Jerry Donald, Bill Allen, Andy Celmer, Glenn Dunham, Charles Eirkson, Gary Magnuson, Matt Moran, Lonnie Ropp, Peter Sicilia, Kim Stewart.

Planning Staff: Kim Golden Brandt, Tim Goodfellow

Tim opened the video meeting with a review of the agenda.

Gary Maguson mentioned a group that is sponsoring a River clean up on May 29, 2021. Alderman Roger Wilson briefly discussed the City's budget process and solicited ideas and projects from the SMC for possible City funding.

Andy Celmer motioned to approved the minutes from the January 28, 2021 meeting. Lonnie Ropp seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Lonnie Ropp made a motion to nominate Bill Allen as Chair of the SMC. Andy Celmer seconded motion. All members voted in the affirmative; however, Glenn Dunham's connection was lost and his vote was not visible or audible. Final vote: 8 in favor; 1 absent.

Bill Allen made a motion to nominate Lonnie Ropp as Vice-Chair of the SMC. Matt Moran seconded motion. All members voted in the affirmative; however, Glenn Dunham's connection was lost and his vote was not visible or audible. Final vote: 8 in favor; 1 absent.

Guest Speaker: Andy Mekelburg, from the Potomac Valley Fly Fishers (PVFF), spoke about plans for a recognition/commemoration for Lefty Kreh, a Frederick County native who is a world-renowned fly-fisher and author. Mr. Mekelburg's powerpoint presentation contained information on Lefty Kreh's life and examples of possible memorials or plaques or signs for placement near the River or in a park. The SMC discussed a variety of possible locations and sites for such a memorial and assistance the County and the SMC could provide. Charles Eirkson made a motion to support the PVFF initiative and to continue the exploration of some type of memorial for Lefty Kreh. Kim Stewart seconded the motion. Vote: 7 in favor. 1 against (Andy Celmer). 1 absent (Glenn Dunham).

2nd Guest Speaker: Dr. Kevin Sellner, presented his and Dr. Drew Ferrier's (Hood College) analysis of a 33-year data set of water quality data on the Monocacy River and Big Pipe Creek. Dr. Sellner summarized the findings and reviewed the trends in the data (primarily nitrogen and phosphorus) from 4 locations on the Monocacy mainstem, plus one on Big Pipe Creek near its Monocacy confluence. Dr. Sellner also identified additional research needs and conclusions and implications from the study. The SMC had many questions about the study and water quality that were answered by Dr. Sellner, in addition to study co-author Dr. Drew Ferrier.

Matt Moran displayed the draft logo designs he created. The SMC expressed gratitude and excitement for these designs. Matt asked for feedback from the group and will present a second draft at the May 2021 meeting.

Tim indicated that he will provide an overview of the 2019 Monocacy River Management Plan that was approved by the County Council in 2019.

Gary Magnuson expressed thanks to Bill Allen and Lonnie Ropp for accepting the Chair and Vice-Chair nominations.

Gary Magnuson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm. Peter Silicia second the motion. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow